



REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 20-57 are in the case.

I. THE INTERVIEW

At the outset, the undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner (Ms. Kam) and her supervisor (Mr. Low) for kindly agreeing to conducting a personal interview on this application. The interview was held on March 19, 2003, and the courtesies extended by the Examiner and her supervisor were most appreciated. The outcome of the interview will be clear from the comments presented below.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claims 25-30 and 32-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for the reasons stated on page 3 of the Action. Those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 25-30 stand rejected as allegedly indefinite because claim 25 is dependent on claim 26. In response, claim 25 has been amended so as to be dependent on claim 24. Withdrawal of this aspect of the formal rejection is now respectfully requested.

Claims 32-43 stand rejected as allegedly indefinite in that they lack essential steps in the method as claimed. This rejection was discussed at length during the interview. During that discussion, it was noted that a similar issue arose during prosecution of commonly assigned Application Serial No. 09/705,912, now U.S. Patent

6,462,021, and that the rejection was overcome by insertion of the language "for a time and under conditions suitable for reducing the incidence of said....disorders".

Based on that outcome, a similar amendment was proposed at the interview for claim 32, and this now appears in amended claim 32 presented herewith, which it is understood will overcome the rejection. The same amendment change has been made in claims 34 and 41.

Withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection is now believed to be in order. Such action is respectfully requested.

III. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 20-24 and 31 are free of the prior art and allowable. With the above-discussed changes, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are now in allowable condition. Early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

IV. NEW CLAIMS

In order to round out the protection in this case, the claims have been expanded to include additional dependent claims. These claims are based on subject matter present in the existing claims, and do not introduce new subject matter. Entry and favorable consideration of the entire claim set in this application are respectfully requested.

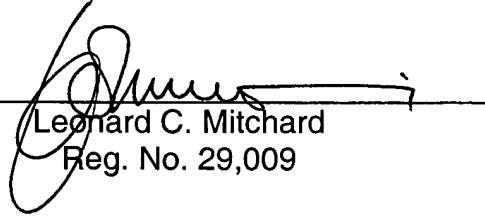
Favorable action on this application is awaited.

GUSTAFSSON, David
Serial No. **09/582,863**
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Leonard C. Mitchard
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:lfm
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100